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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HIDEHIKO FUJIMURA, ET AL.

Application No.: 09/309,766

Filed: May 11, 1999

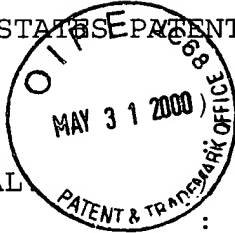
For: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING
AIRTIGHT VESSEL AND
IMAGE-FORMING APPARATUS
USING AIRTIGHT VESSEL

Examiner: Unassigned

Group Art Unit: 3729

May 31, 2000

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



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FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

Applicants certify under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in the subject information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Specifically, these documents were cited in a European Search

Report dated April 17, 2000, in a corresponding European patent application. A copy of the Search Report that issued on that related application is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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SDM\rnm